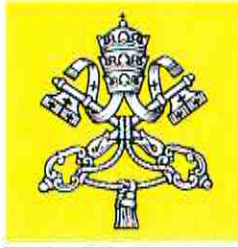


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SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

Holy See Press Office Communiqué: Audience with the President of the Republic of Turkey, 05.02.2018

This morning, Monday 5 February 2018, the Holy Father Francis received in audience, in the Vatican Apostolic Palace, the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who subsequently met with His Eminence Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, accompanied by H.E. Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States.

During the cordial discussions the bilateral relations between the Holy See and Turkey were evoked, and the parties spoke about the situation of the country, the condition of the Catholic community, efforts in the reception of the many refugees and the challenges linked to this. Attention then turned to the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the status of Jerusalem, highlighting the need to promote peace and stability in the region through dialogue and negotiation, with respect for human rights and international law.

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